

REMARKS

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-3, 5-48, and 61, drawn to a method for identifying an eRNA or DNA sequence, a receiver DNA or RNA sequence, or a receiver protein and a method for detecting an altered genetic network comprising screening for the presence or absence of an eRNA, classified in class 702, subclass 19.
- II. Claims 49-52, drawn to a computer program product and computer system for assessing the likelihood of a candidate sequence or group of sequences being an eRNA or a receiver for an eRNA involved in network genetic signaling, classified in class 703, subclass 11.
- III. Claim 53, drawn to an eRNA molecule, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
- IV. Claim 54, drawn to a receiver DNA or RNA molecule, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
- V. Claim 55, drawn to a receiver protein, classified in class 530, subclass 350.
- VI. Claim 56-60, drawn to a method of inducing post transcriptional gene silencing in a eukaryotic cell, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

Election in response to Restriction Requirement

In response to this restriction requirement, Applicants elect Group I claims, *i.e.*, Claims 1-3, 5-48, and 61, drawn to a method for identifying an eRNA or DNA sequence, a receiver DNA or RNA sequence, or a receiver protein and a method for detecting an altered genetic network comprising screening for the presence or absence of an eRNA, classified in class 702, subclass 19.

Claim 4

Claim 4 was not included in any of the groups. Claim 4 has been amended so that it is no longer dependent on another multiple dependent claim. Accordingly Claim 4 is believed to be now properly included within elected Group 1.

Election of Species

With respect to Election of species, Applicants elect the following species:

Species A (Claims 6, 23, 36): wherein the eRNA is derived from an intron.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-23, 25-36, and 38-48 read on the elected species. Applicants understand that, upon allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of

claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

Request for Rejoinder

Upon allowance of Group I claims, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the Group III-VI Claims. Claim 53, the sole claim in Group III, includes all of the limitations of elected Claim 1; Claim 54, the sole claim in Group IV, includes all of the limitations of elected Claim 2; and Claim 55, the sole claim in Group V, includes all of the limitations of elected Claim 19. In addition, the Group VI claims have been amended so that all such claims are ultimately dependent on Claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests that this application be passed to issuance. If any points remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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